



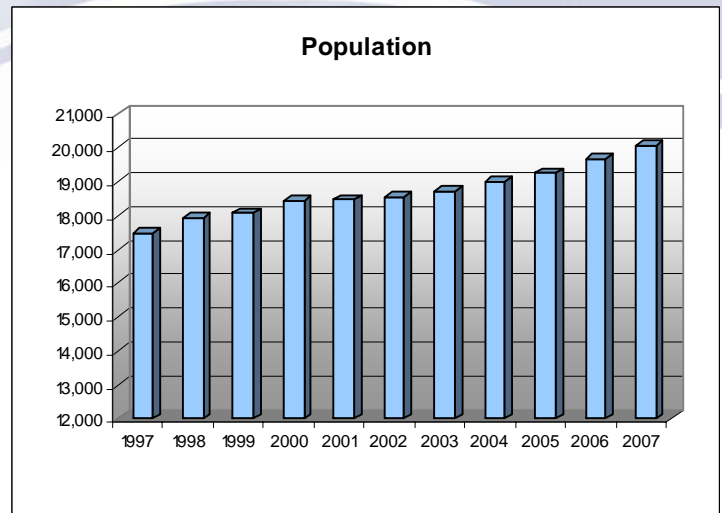
Jerome County

October 2008

Population

Jerome County has shown steady population growth over the last decade rising 15 percent from 17,495 in 1997 to 20,066 in 2007. Growth can partially be attributed to outstanding economic development that has taken place in Jerome County drawing in new industries that require higher skilled workers, such as Hilex Poly, manufacturer of grocery bags. The dairy industry has swelled and the resulting businesses such as Jerome Cheese, West Farm Foods Inc. and WOW Logistics have made Jerome County an appealing place to work. The population has increased accordingly which has brought in additional small retail to join Wal-Mart, the growing Con Paulos auto dealership and new schools. The population will continue to grow at a brisk pace due to affordable real estate and the addition of the Crossroads Point Business Center at I-84 and Highway 93.

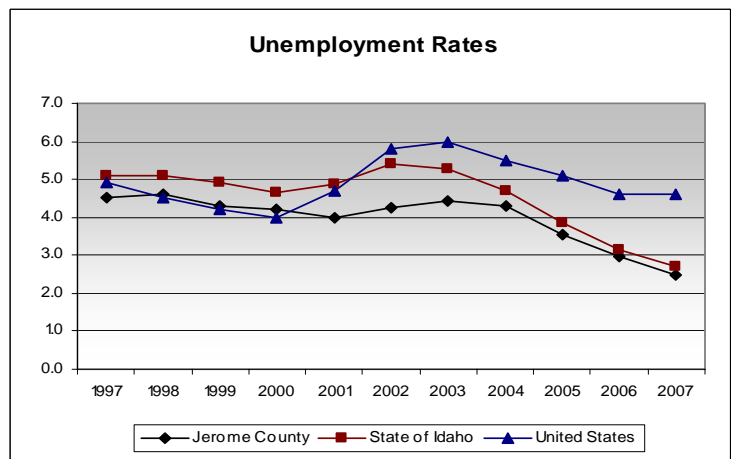
Work Force Trends



Labor Force & Employment

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Jerome County has improved dramatically over the past few years, dropping from a high of 4.6 percent in 2003 to 2.5 percent in 2007. The positive trend has been driven by excellent economic diversification and development. The growth in the dairy industry and the resulting businesses that have sprung from that sector have provided a very stable employment picture. Idaho Milk Products Facility will wrap up construction on an \$80 million plant on the east side of Jerome that will process whey protein, a popular domestic and export product. The surge in food processing, as well as Hilex Poly's positive impact on the area have bumped up population, which then fuels the retail sector.

In 2000, Wal-Mart opened a large supercenter store, employing over 300 people. Many small retailers have done well and there have been numerous jobs created in the retail and services sectors. While dairy growth has stabilized, it is expected that Jerome County will continue its

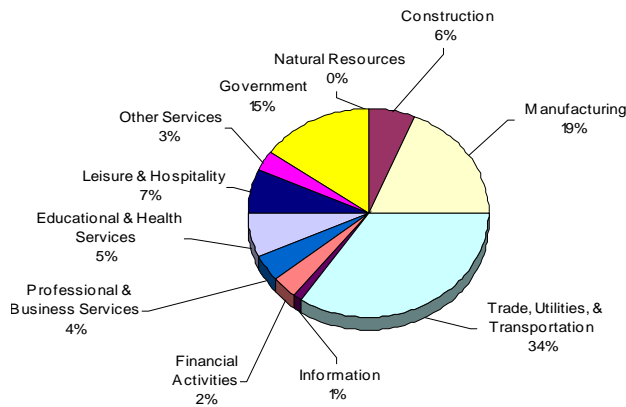


low unemployment rate and remain significantly under the national and state averages. The economic outlook remains optimistic with the continued infrastructure build out of Crossroads Point which currently boasts a Wingate Hotel, Fed Ex, Pella Windows, Fastenal and a Subway with construction starting in 2009 on a new hospital. Housing has been a strength for Jerome, which runs counter to the current national trends and facilitated the need for the new elementary school and middle school completed in 2008. The economy of Jerome will remain vibrant due to its superb location on the interstate and cluster industries co-existing and excelling.

| Labor Force | Sep 2007 | Sep 2008 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 10,320 | 10,288 |
| Total Employment | 10,083 | 9,860 |
| Unemployed | 237 | 428 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 2.3 | 4.2 |
| State of Idaho % Unemployed | 2.7 | 5.0 |
| U.S. % Unemployed | 4.7 | 6.1 |

| Labor Force | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 8,702 | 9,003 | 8,954 | 9,253 | 9,322 | 9,586 | 9,518 | 9,772 | 9,857 | 10,117 | 10,181 |
| Unemployment | 393 | 411 | 382 | 388 | 374 | 407 | 423 | 422 | 351 | 302 | 253 |
| % of Labor Force Unemployed | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.5 |
| Employment | 8,309 | 8,592 | 8,572 | 8,865 | 8,948 | 9,180 | 9,095 | 9,350 | 9,506 | 9,815 | 9,928 |

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Wages & Income

Jerome County has shown strong growth in per capita income over the last decade, rising from \$19,697 in 1997 to \$28,092 in 2006 for a 43 percent increase. Jerome County is ranked 10th in the state for per capita income out of 44 counties and is slightly less than the state average,

The dairy industry is struggling with moratoriums due to speculation that there could be some negative impact on other crops due to environmental concerns. However, the growth of cheese and dairy product manufacturing will continue to grow due to the cluster of industry and skilled workers. The advantageous location, directly on the interstate, in conjunction with the new businesses that have located in the area and the proactive infrastructure they are building in Jerome County ensure continued strong growth projections in the near future.

Major Employers

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aardema Dairy | Rite Stuff Foods |
| Arlo G. Lott Trucking, Inc. | Si-Ellen Farms |
| Crestview Calves | Spears Manufacturing |
| Dietrich Cattle Company | St. Benedict's Medical Center |
| Hilex Poly | Standlee Hay Company |
| Jerome Cheese | Wal-Mart |

Occupational Wages*

Average Wage

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Teachers | \$14.82 |
| Teachers Aides | \$8.50 |
| Registered Nurses | \$17.13 |
| Receptionists | \$8.38 |
| Medical Secretaries | \$9.15 |
| Bookkeepers | \$9.04 |
| Cashiers | \$6.07 |
| Telemarketers | \$7.19 |
| Janitorial | \$7.36 |
| Landscapers | \$8.54 |
| Maintenance Mechanics | \$12.20 |
| Cheese Processors | \$9.37 |
| Construction Laborers | \$11.52 |
| Milkers | \$9.90 |
| Farm Laborers | \$6.34 |

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

| Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007 | 1997 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | Average Employment | Average Wages | Average Employment | Average Wages | Average Employment | Average Wages |
| Total Covered Wages | 5,977 | \$19,883 | 8,330 | \$26,673 | 8,649 | \$27,571 |
| Agriculture | 1,289 | \$18,200 | 1,858 | \$24,418 | 2,046 | \$26,149 |
| Mining | * | * | * | * | 0 | \$0 |
| Construction | 275 | \$21,533 | 448 | \$26,781 | 433 | \$30,979 |
| Manufacturing | 720 | \$22,808 | 1,207 | \$28,884 | 1,237 | \$29,200 |
| Trade, Utilities & Transportation | 1,750 | \$21,260 | 2,240 | \$29,485 | 2,290 | \$30,304 |
| Information | 54 | \$17,323 | 77 | \$39,620 | 78 | \$32,488 |
| Financial Activities | 85 | \$21,148 | 209 | \$27,957 | 220 | \$30,158 |
| Professional and Business Services | 169 | \$22,398 | 262 | \$25,461 | 253 | \$30,246 |
| Educational and Health Services | 322 | \$22,630 | 439 | \$29,274 | 467 | \$31,298 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 341 | \$8,119 | 448 | \$10,909 | 442 | \$11,567 |
| Other Services | 122 | \$16,334 | 177 | \$21,850 | 193 | \$22,211 |
| Government | 850 | \$20,308 | 965 | \$27,697 | 990 | \$25,439 |

| Per Capita Income | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Jerome County | \$19,697 | \$22,065 | \$23,341 | \$21,797 | \$24,816 | \$24,064 | \$24,311 | \$26,859 | \$27,847 | \$28,092 |
| State of Idaho | \$20,648 | \$21,789 | \$22,786 | \$24,077 | \$25,024 | \$25,221 | \$25,524 | \$27,361 | \$28,301 | \$29,920 |
| United States | \$25,334 | \$26,883 | \$27,939 | \$29,843 | \$30,574 | \$30,821 | \$31,504 | \$33,123 | \$34,757 | \$36,714 |

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
Idaho Department of Labor
420 Falls Avenue
Twin Falls, ID 83301 Ph: (208) 735-2500

labor.idaho.gov

This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor.

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